

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method for satisfying a request for content from a web server, said method comprising:

- (a) determining whether a response to the request can be delayed;
- (b) processing the request to obtain the response in an intentionally delayed manner when said determining (a) determines that the response to the request can be delayed; and
- (c) processing the request without any intentional delay when said determining (a) determines that the response to the request cannot be delayed, wherein the response being obtained in the intentionally delayed manner is delayed dependent on at least one of a priority level associated with the request, an amount of data being requested by the request, a type of data and a load or congestion level for the web server.

2. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said processing (b) allows a group of requests for the same content to be processed together so as to reduce congestion at the web server.

3. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the intentionally delayed manner is based on a time delay, the time delay being dependent on at least one of a priority level associated with the request, an amount of data being requested by the request, a type of data and a load or congestion level for the web server.

4. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 3, wherein the time delay is limited by at least one of a maximum time delay and a quantity threshold.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for sending data over the Internet, said method comprising:

receiving a plurality of requests for a particular resource provided at a remote server on the Internet, the plurality of requests being provided by different requestors;

retrieving the particular resource from the remote server once for the plurality of requests to obtain the particular resource requested by the plurality of requests; and

thereafter sending the particular resource to the different requestors, wherein said retrieving and/or said sending are performed after a predetermined quantity of the plurality of requests have been received, wherein the particular resource comprises digital data.

Claims 6-10 (Cancelled).

11. (Original) A method as recited in claim 5, wherein said sending of the particular resource to the different requestors comprises:

forming multi-destination data packets to carry data of the particular resource; and

transmitting the multi-destination data packets.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for sending data over the Internet, said method comprising:

receiving a plurality of requests for a particular resource provided at a remote server on the Internet, the plurality of requests being provided by different requestors;

retrieving the particular resource from the remote server once for the plurality of requests to obtain the particular resource requested by the plurality of requests; and

thereafter sending the particular resource to the different requestors,

wherein a data distribution center is coupled to the Internet to assist with the transfer of data, and

wherein said sending of the particular resource to the different requestors comprises:

forming multi-destination data packets to carry data of the particular resource;

transmitting the multi-destination data packets from the remote server to the data distribution center;

converting the multi-destination data packets received at the data distribution center into single destination data packets; and

transmitting the single-destination data packets from the data distribution center to the different requestors, thereby delivering the particular resource requested to the different requestors,

wherein the particular resource comprises digital data.

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Previously Presented) A data transmission system for transmitting data from content servers to requestors through a data network, said data transmission system comprising:

a plurality of data distribution centers, said data distribution centers being connected to the data network,

wherein data transmissions between the content servers and said data distribution centers use a multi-destination format so as to reduce congestion, and

wherein the multi-destination format uses multi-destination data packets, the multi-destination data packets include at least multiple destination fields and a data field.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Original) A data transmission system as recited in claim 15, wherein the data network is the Internet.

18. (Original) A data transmission system as recited in claim 15, wherein said data distribution centers are utilized between the content servers and the requestors.

19. (Original) A data transmission system as recited in claim 15, wherein data transmissions between said data distribution centers use a multi-destination format.

20. (Original) A data transmission system as recited in claim 15, wherein data distribution centers service a large number of content servers and only temporarily store data being requested and to be transmitted to the requestors.

21. (Original) A system for transmitting data through a data network from servers to clients, said system comprising:

a plurality of data distribution centers coupled to the data network; and
server modules provided in the servers, said server modules operate to receive data to be transmitted to the clients and to form multi-destination packets to carry the data to at least one of said data distribution centers,

wherein said data distribution centers receive the multi-destination packets from said server modules and operates to convert the multi-destination packets into single-destination packets and to delivery the single-destination packets to the appropriate clients.

22. (Original) A system as recited in claim 21, wherein each of the data distribution centers is in a geographically different location.

23. (Original) A system as recited in claim 21, wherein the data network is a global computer network.

24. (Original) A system as recited in claim 21, wherein the multi-destination packets include a plurality of destination locations and data.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for transferring data through a data network from a server to clients, wherein said method ~~the improvement~~ comprises transferring the data between the server and a data distribution center using a multi-destination format, thereby reducing congestion at the server.

26. (Cancelled).

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Currently Amended) A system for sending data over the Internet, said system comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of requests for a particular resource provided at a remote server on the Internet, the plurality of requests being provided by different requestors;

means for retrieving the particular resource from the remote server once the plurality of requests to obtain the particular resource have been requested by the plurality of requests; and

means for thereafter sending the particular resource to the different requestors using multi-destination data packets,

wherein the particular resource comprises digital data.